

Climate Change in NM - Research (articles and sttes)

[https://www.epcor.com/learn/value-of-water/Documents/2104\\_ClovisWaterReport\\_C2.pdf](https://www.epcor.com/learn/value-of-water/Documents/2104_ClovisWaterReport_C2.pdf)

EPCOR, Planning for Clovis' Water Future (Executive summary of 40-year Master Plan) published abt 2019

EPCOR is the largest private water, wastewater and wholesale water service provider in the Southwest with customers in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. [The Canada-based EPCOR has water, wastewater, and electrical and natural gas facilities in four Canadian provinces, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico. In the Clovis area, it supplies water to about 16,000 households and businesses.]

The Ogallala Aquifer. The saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer has been declining for decades, and water production from the aquifer has been decreasing over the years, as well. New Mexico is also in a twodecade-long regional drought with insufficient natural recharge to sustain current rates of water withdrawal from the Ogallala.

Groundwater System. . EPCOR's water system is currently supplied by about 80 active wells throughout southern Curry County and northern Roosevelt County.

Ute Reservoir. The City of Clovis is ... pursuing a project to deliver surface water from Ute Reservoir to the City and other ENMWUA [Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority] member cities and agencies as a replacement for declining groundwater. Currently, the ENMWUA is pursuing an Interim Groundwater effort to access potential sources of supplemental groundwater until renewable surface water from Ute Reservoir is available. As water provider to the City of Clovis, EPCOR will receive this water via a recently constructed transmission pipe.

Population today: 38,603      in 40 years: 51,013

According to its Comprehensive Plan, the City of Clovis is projected to grow by approximately 12,400 people over the next 40 years – adding roughly 33% to the existing population.

The availability of this [surface] water is potentially several years out, and the City, EPCOR and ENMWUA will work together to integrate groundwater and surface water. EPCOR's 40-year Plan includes a diversified strategy for ensuring the City and other customers in the water district adequate supplies for the next 40 years, which includes strategies such as reclaimed water, conservation, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge and recovery, among others.

<https://www.enmwua.com/faq>

Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System FAQs

The Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System (ENMRWS) project includes a water intake facility to divert surface water from Ute Reservoir; a water treatment facility with an average capacity of 15 million gallons per day (mgd) and peak capacity of 28 mgd; over 90 miles of water supply pipes; and over 60 miles of lateral pipes to serve Texico, Clovis, Portales, Elida,

and Cannon Air Force Base. Its purpose is to address municipal and industrial water supply issues resulting from declining and deteriorating groundwater (aquifer) resources. Water levels in the Ogallala aquifer below Clovis, Portales, and surrounding communities have declined in excess of 100 feet in the past decades. In addition to the decline in water level (as much as 2 feet per year in some places), there is evidence of deteriorating water quality. Aggressive private and public water conservation measures have been and continue to be implemented. However, hydrologic experts predict the groundwater supply will not be able to sustain municipal activities in the near future.

The project will be paid for with a combination of federal, state, and local funds.

<https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/geoscience/research/home.cfm?id=27>

A hydrogeologic investigation of Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, Dec 2022

The data and interpretation in this study are consistent with many other studies throughout the southern High Plains, and indicate that groundwater withdrawals continue to greatly exceed recharge. The result is progressive declines of the quantity of groundwater in storage, resulting in water level declines.

With regard to the protection of the source water for the Curry and Roosevelt County region, the groundwater level declines indicate a concern for groundwater availability in the region. There is evidence of naturally occurring groundwater contaminants, such as arsenic and fluoride. Alternative groundwater options are limited in the area, as aquifers in the underlying bedrock have poor water quality, and limitations to pumping. There are no significant surface water resources. Addressing both water quantity and water quality concerns through increasing public awareness and education, with particular focus on irrigation practices, may help improve the situation. However, long-term, drastic water conservation measures across the broader region may be the most effective means of extending the useful life of the High Plains Aquifer.

N.M. Const. art. XX, § 21; Protection of the environment

The protection of the state's beautiful and healthful environment is hereby declared to be of fundamental importance to the public interest, health, safety and the general welfare. The legislature shall provide for control of pollution and control of despoilment of the air, water and other natural resources of this state, consistent with the use and development of these resources for the maximum benefit of the people.

Under the Renewable Energy Financing District Act, the legislative findings provide for:

"The legislature finds that:

- A. the development of renewable energy sources will advance the security, economic well-being and public and environmental health of the state, as well as contributing to the energy independence of the nation and addressing the issue of global climate change;
- B. it is in the best interests of the state, municipalities and counties to encourage the development of distributed generation renewable energy sources and the installation by property owners of such energy sources;"

D. the creation and administration of renewable energy financing districts to facilitate the development of renewable energy improvements on property in the district will serve a valid public purpose and is expressly declared to be in the public interest.